

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 792

By Henry

A RESOLUTION to commend Vanderbilt University upon the recent opening of its new Vanderbilt Children's Hospital.

WHEREAS, the Vanderbilt University Medical Center's constituent hospitals have long been acclaimed for the excellence of medical services which they provide; the old Vanderbilt Children's Hospital excelled in the provision of its services, but had become increasingly crowded in recent years; and

WHEREAS, deciding to meet the growing needs for top-ranked children's medical care, Vanderbilt University embarked upon the largest building project in the institution's history, and one of the largest in Nashville; five years of intensive planning and three years of steady construction went into the \$172 million project; and

WHEREAS, determined to get the planning and implementation right, Vanderbilt sought parental involvement in every aspect of design, including the selection of bright colors and children-themed decorations and designs; patients were involved, resulting in making all rooms of equal size in the interest of fairness, and parents and families continue to be involved in determining the care offered inside the hospital and out in the community; and

WHEREAS, the new hospital features many innovative amenities, including a massive new Junior League Family Resource Center, an auditorium, and play areas with hookups for all the pumps and IV poles children might need to have with them; the outside areas of the hospital are graced by gardens, including a memorial garden and koi pond outside the front entrance; and

WHEREAS, it was recognized that families need space to feel comfortable and at home during a difficult period of time when a child is sick; the hospital has provided quiet areas for

families on every floor with broad views of the world outside, when conditions within the hospital become a bit too much to bear; and

WHEREAS, the crowded conditions in the old hospital have been relieved in the new one, which boasts the largest pediatric referral center for the Middle Tennessee region, including parts of southern Kentucky and northern Alabama, and the ability to handle increasing admissions every year; the new hospital is of world class status, blending top-rated clinical care, research and academic teaching; and

WHEREAS, the new Vanderbilt Children's Hospital has one of the finest pediatric cardiology programs in the nation; it is also a leader in neonatology, pediatric oncology, pediatric trauma services and research in the prevention and control of pediatric infection; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly pause to salute the opening of this state-of-the-art facility that is the safety net for all children within a 200-mile radius of Nashville and beyond; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we congratulate Vanderbilt University for its commitment to children's health as exemplified in the opening of the new Vanderbilt Children's Hospital.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we thank the Vanderbilt University administration, medical staff and patrons for their commitment to continuing service to the children of this region and elsewhere, and offer our best wishes for much success in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.